

Sea Island Summit

Elementary School Lessons for Teaching About the G8

Lesson One

What is the G8?

Activity 1

What is the G8 and who are the member nations?

Objective

Students will become familiar with basic information about the G8 member nations.

Resources

- Sea Island Summit Web Hunt – Activity Sheet
- School media center reference materials (optional)
- Internet access for the following websites:

<http://g8usa.gov>

<http://www.yahooligans.com>

<http://www.state.gov>

Introduction

The G8 (Group of Eight) is an informal group made up of the leaders of eight countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. These countries are some of the world's major industrial nations. The leaders of these countries meet on an annual basis to discuss critical issues facing the world as a whole.

The European Union has observer status at the G8 Summit. The President of the European Commission, His Excellency Romano Prodi, and the Leader of the country holding the Presidency of the European Council, currently the Prime Minister of Ireland, His Excellency Bertie Ahern, will represent the European Union at the Sea Island Summit. At previous summits, leaders have discussed a wide range of international economic, political, and security issues.

The G8 began with a 1975 Summit in France which included six countries (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Canada joined the group at the San Juan Summit of 1976, and the European Community began participation at the London Summit of 1977. Starting with the 1994 Naples Summit, Russia attended the political sessions of the Summit and at the 1998 Birmingham Summit, Russia began participating in all Summit sessions.

President George W. Bush will host the 30th G8 Summit at Sea Island, Georgia, on June 8-10, 2004. The United States assumed the Presidency of the G8 from France at the beginning of 2004. President Bush, Host of the 2004 G8 Summit, is looking forward to the opportunity to meet with the G8 Leaders in the informal and relaxed setting of Sea Island, Georgia. The Presidency of the G8, and responsibility of hosting the G8 Summit, rotates each year. Italy hosted the G8 Summit in Genoa in 2001, Canada hosted in Kananaskis in 2002, and France hosted in Evian in 2003. The United Kingdom will host

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the G8 Summit in 2005 and Russia will host in 2006. For further background, see <http://g8usa.gov>.

Task

In this lesson, students will use links on the Internet to locate information about the G8 member nations.

Process

Begin this lesson by explaining that in June 2004, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, will be hosting leaders from seven other countries for an important meeting (see Introduction). Explain that in this activity, they will be learning about the countries, the leaders, and the purpose of the meeting.

Divide students into eight groups. These “country” groups will be expert groups used throughout the lessons to learn about one country in particular. “Summit” groups will be composed of at least eight different students, with at least one from each of the country groups. Use the group planner (below) to assist you in organizing your students. If you have exactly 24 students, there will be one box for each student in your class. If you have fewer than 24 students, it may be most practical to have two summit groups, and allow more than one student to be assigned to a particular country. If you have more than 24 students, use three summit groups, and allow more than one student to be assigned to a particular country.

Group Planner

| | <i>Summit Group 1</i> | <i>Summit Group 2</i> | <i>Summit Group 3</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>United States</i> | | | |
| <i>Canada</i> | | | |
| <i>France</i> | | | |
| <i>Germany</i> | | | |
| <i>Italy</i> | | | |
| <i>Japan</i> | | | |
| <i>Russia</i> | | | |
| <i>United Kingdom</i> | | | |

For this activity, students will need Internet access, preferably in a computer lab. Small groups could work at a classroom station, if needed. Distribute the Sea Island Summit

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Web Hunt – Activity Sheet. Have students sit with other members of their “country” group. Direct students in opening their Internet browser and locating the correct website. Model how students will navigate the website. Students may work independently, but just like the Summit members, they may need to work together to get this task completed!

Activity 2

Objective

Students will identify basic facts about G8 member nations including location, leader attending the summit, flag, capital, primary language(s), and trade information.

Resources

- Country Research Information – Activity Sheet
- Country Research Information – Map
- School media center reference materials (optional)
- Internet access for the following websites:
<http://g8usa.gov>
<http://www.yahooligans.com>
<http://www.state.gov>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas>

Introduction

The G8 member nations are each economically strong and influential in world markets. This activity will help students learn basic information about one of the countries so they can become an “expert” on that country.

Task

Students will work in small groups to gather the information to complete an idea web on their country. Students will use Internet resources (or media center references) to complete the web.

Process

Have students sit in their “country” groups, as decided in Activity 1. Distribute the Country Research Information – Activity Sheet and the Country Research Information – Map. Have students circle the flag of the country they are studying and write the name of the country in the center bubble.

Each student needs to have their own activity sheets, but groups should work together to locate information.

Direct students to the Internet website <http://www.yahooligans.com>. Click **Reference**, then **World Factbook**, then **Countries**. Use the **Background and Maps** link and the **Economy** link to gather the information. The Sea Island Summit website (<http://g8usa.gov>) and the Department of State website (<http://www.state.gov>) will also

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be useful for this activity. Note that there may be minor differences in data among different websites depending on when the data were collected. Instruct students to complete the idea web with information they find on the websites.

Have students label the map to show their country and the location of Sea Island, Georgia. Rather than giving students the handout map, you may choose to have them locate and print a map for their country using National Geographic's Xpeditions Atlas (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas>). Use the MapMachine website (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine>) to locate Sea Island, Georgia (Tip: When using MapMachine, avoid adding too much to the search term. For example, look for "Sea Island" rather than "Sea Island Georgia"). Close the lesson with a review of what students have learned. Ask, what countries are members of the G8 summit? What can they say about these countries' economies? Where and when will this year's summit take place? Who will be the next leader to host the G8?

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Sea Island Summit Web Hunt

Instructions: Follow your teacher's directions to get to the G8 website (<http://g8usa.gov>). Use the information there to respond to each item below.

Part I: Click the **Information** link, and then choose **Background Information**. Find answers to the following questions.

1. What is the location of the 2004 G8 Summit?
2. Who is the Host of the 2004 G8 Summit?
3. During what month and on what dates will the 2004 G8 Summit occur?
4. When and where was the first of these Summits held?
5. What other cities in the United States have hosted the Summit?
6. How is the location and leader of the next Summit chosen?

Part II: Click the **Information** link, and then choose **Member Information**. Read the information to complete the table with the countries and leaders participating in the Summit.

| <i>Country</i> | <i>Leader's Name</i> | <i>Leader's Title</i> | <i>First Year in Office</i> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| United States | George W. Bush | President | 2001 |
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Part III: Georgia is the site of the Sea Island Summit. Click the **Information** link, and then choose **Local Information**. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the four barrier islands known as the "Golden Isles of Georgia"?
2. What town on the mainland serves as the gateway to the Golden Isles?
3. What type of boats are you most likely to find on Brunswick's waterfront?

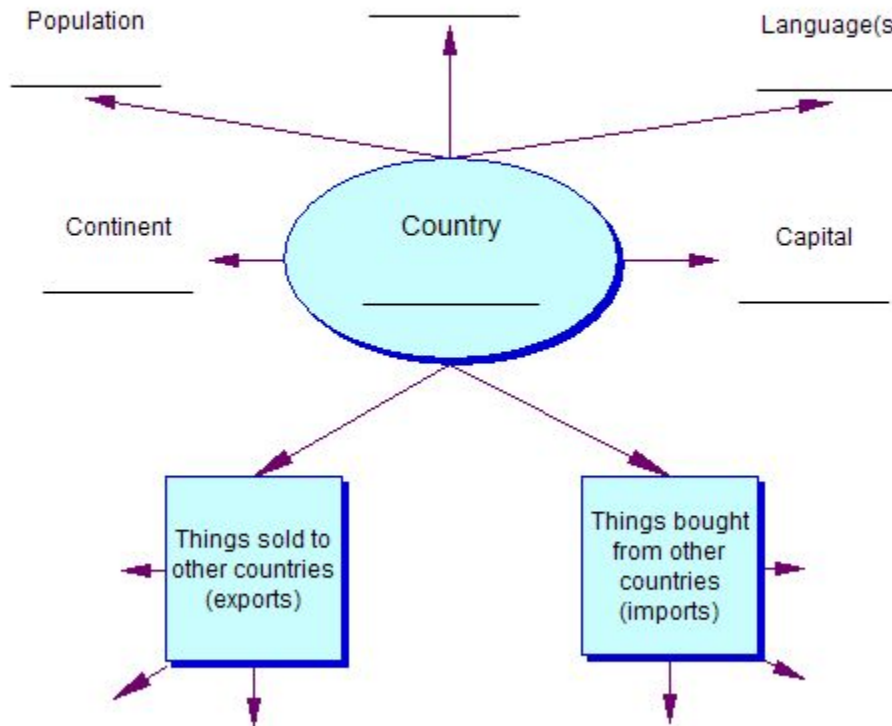
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Country Research Information – Activity Sheet



Student Name: _____

Leader _____



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Country Research Information – Map

Name: _____

Country: _____

Instructions: Locate the country you are studying and color it on the map below. Then, locate and label the location of Sea Island, Georgia

